

From: "Gladwyn d'Souza" <godsouza@mac.com>
To: <tedd@abag.ca.gov>
Date: 2/15/2005 3:05:01 AM
Subject: Connecting land use to transit

Joint Policy Committee
Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
101 8th Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Joint Policy Committee Member:

Walk San Jose writing to support the MTC and Joint Policy Committee's steps toward connecting land use to transit, but we are concerned the proposed policy will not be effective. We urge you to strengthen the policy by adopting the Livable Communities Platform, which will help ensure good land use around transit stations.

We know that MTC is considering a policy that calls for a certain amount of housing and jobs along transit corridors as a measure for growth. While we applaud the focus on housing, we concerned that the proposed policy leaves too much room for the possibility of poorly planned station areas.

We urge you to adopt the following Livable Communities Platform as part of a Regional Transit Oriented Development Policy. Before MTC funds transit expansion projects, cities should have to:

- Plan for compact development so that at least half the new housing built in the Bay Area is located in the half-mile radius station areas.
- Plan for a minimum threshold of housing within station areas, separate from a jobs threshold.
- Promote affordable housing in station areas.
- Prohibit big-box developments in station areas.
- Create plans to minimize the space dedicated to parking in station areas.
- Develop bicycle and pedestrian plans for safe routes to and within station areas.

We are eager to support a policy linking transportation funds to land use, but in its current state, this policy may be ineffective and may backfire in a number of cities including San Jose where we are in the process of planning a new community in Coyote Valley.

Sincerely,

Gladwyn d'Souza
President Walk San Jose
www.walksanjose.org
408-857-7347